

Message Text

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53

ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 INR-07 IO-10 MED-03 NSAE-00

PA-02 OES-05 USIA-15 PRS-01 CIAE-00 AID-05 FDRE-00

DODE-00 /065 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9780

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 9079

DEPT PASS TO DHEW/PHS/OIH/NIH/CDC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO IN

SUBJECT: SMALLPOX ERADICATED FROM INDIA

1. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN RECORDED HISTORY THERE ARE NO KNOWN CASES OF SMALLPOX IN INDIA. THIS IS A MILESTONE IN THE HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE ELIMINATION OF DISEASE. THESE REMARKS WERE MADE IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW LAST WEEK BY DR. KAREN SINGH, MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING, WHO CLAIMED THAT AS OF JUNE 30, SMALLPOX HAD BEEN ERADICATED FROM INDIA. IN A CHECK WITH WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION YESTERDAY, WE WERE TOLD BY OFFICIAL SOURCES THAT AS OF SATURDAY THERE ARE VIRTUALLY NO CASES OF SMALLPOX IN INDIA. IN 1974, THERE WERE 188,003 CASES OF SMALLPOX IN INDIA WITH 31,262 DEATHS. VIRTUALLY ALL OF THESE CASES WERE REPORTED FROM SIX STATES: BIHAR, UP, ASSAM, WEST BENGAL, ORISSA, AND MADHYA PRADESH. BIHAR ALONE ACCOUNTED FOR 68 PERCENT OF THE CASES.

2. THE WHO AND THE GOI WILL CONTINUE A DILIGENT PROGRAM FOR TWO MORE YEARS TO CHECK THE RECURRENCE OF THD DISEASE. THE GOI WILL GIVE AN AWARD OF RS. 1,000 FOR REPORTING OF ANY NEW CASE OF SMALLPOX. THIS AMOUNT WAS RAISED FROM UNCLASSIFIED

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RS. 100.

3. THE ONLY OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD WITH KNOWN CASES OF SMALLPOX ARE BANGLADESH AND ETHIOPIA. AS OF LAST WEEK, THERE WERE 522 CASES IN BANGLADESH AND 110 CASES IN ETHIOPIA. THE WHO IS STEPPING UP THE CONTAINMENT PROGRAM IN BANGLADESH AND THE TARGET IS TO ERADICATE SMALLPOX BY THE END OF THE MONSOON SEASON IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER. THE GOI AND WHO HAVE INCREASED THEIR VIGILANCE IN THE BORDER AREAS TO ASSURE THAT NO CASES OF SMALLPOX ENTER THE COUNTRY UNDETECTED.SAXBE

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